

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the specification, please amend paragraph [0030] as follows:

[0030] Another aspect of the intercalates, exfoliates, nanocomposite compositions and methods described herein is to provide an intercalate that can be melt ~~shared~~sheared with a matrix polymer at higher matrix polymer melt temperatures, without, or with less, thermal degradation so that the intercalates can be added to higher melting matrix polymers to improve strength, gas/liquid barrier properties and/or temperature resistance in a broader list of matrix polymers.